Provision of Telephone Connection in Pauri Garhwal

1631. MISS FRIDA TOPNO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether requests for provision of telephone connection to residents of village of Shrikot, Patti Khatsyun, Pauri Garhwal, Uttar Pradesh have been pending for a very long time;

(b) whether these residents have already deposited the amount towards telephone connections;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Minister of Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution has also written to Government regarding the problem of these residents;

(d) if so, the reasons for the delay; and

(e) the steps proposed for giving them early connection keeping in view the backwardness of the area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) No, Sir. The requests for provision of telephone connections to the resident of the village Shrikot, Patti Khatsyun have been pending since May, 2000 only.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The demand for telephone connections have been registered by the residents of the village Shrikot in May, 2000. That is why these demands were not included in the plan for 2000-2001 for commissioning of an exchange.

(e) For providing telephone connections to the residents of village Shrikot a telephone exchange has been planned at Sikukhal during 2001-2002. Sikukhal is the centre place for all the villages of Patti Khatsyun.

Opening of Post Offices in the Villages of Gujarat

1632. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria fixed for opening of a village post office;

(b) the total number of villages in Gujarat;

(c) the number of villages where post offices are available;

(d) whether postal facility of delivery of mail is available in remaining villages but there are neither post boxes nor any arrangement has been made for sale of post cards, envelops and postage stamps etc.; and

(e) if so, the reasons for depriving them of such facilities even after Golden Jubilee of Independence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The details of criteria fixed for opening of a village post office are given in Statement (*see below*).

(b) There are total 18025 villages (Inhabited) in Gujarat.

(c) There are 8090 villages where post offices are available.

(d) All inhabited villages in the country have daily dak delivery facility. Most of the villages in the country are having a post office within a radius of 3 Kms. Extra Departmental Delivery Agents sell postage stamps and stationery while on mail delivery beat in the villages.

(e) No reply called for in view of (d) above.

Statement

Criteria Fixed for Opening of Village Post Office

Criteria for Opening Post Offices:

1. Norms for opening extra Departmental Branch Post Offices:

1.1 **Population:**

(a) *In Normal Areas:*

3000 population in a group of villages (including the PPO village)

(b) *In Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible Areas:*

500 population in an individual village or 1000 population in a group of villages.

1.2 **Distance:**

(a) *In Normal areas:*

The minimum distance from the nearest existing post office will be 3 Kms.

(b) *In Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible Areas:*

The distance limit will be the same as above except that in Hilly Areas,

the minimum distance limit can be relaxed by the Directorate in cases where such relaxation is warranted by special circumstances which should be clearly explained while submitting a proposal.

1.3 **Anticipated Income**

(a) *In Normal Areas:*

The minimum anticipated revenue will be 33 1/3% of the cost.

(b) *In Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible Areas:*

The minimum anticipated income will be 15% of the cost.

2. **Criteria for upgrading/opening Departmental Sub Post Offices:**

In Rural Areas:

The Minimum work load for the Extra Departmental Branch Post Office, proposed to be upgraded, should be five hours per day. The permissible limit of annual loss is Rs. 2400/-in Normal Rural areas and Rs. 4800/-in Tribal and Hilly areas.

Losses due to strike and disruption in Telecom Services

1633. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a report from the Committee headed by Mr. Dilip Sahay to look into the reasons for the disruption in telecom services during strike by its employees;

(b) if so, the details, thereof;

(c) the action taken by Government against employees responsible for disruption in services; and

(d) the financial losses incurred by Government due to the strike and disruption in the services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. However, the Committee has been asked to look into some more details in the matter and submit its report.

(c) and (d) Not applicable in view of reply given in Para (a) and (b) above.